

Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

Operator: Slawson Exploration Company, Inc.
Well Name/Number: Culverin 1-32H
Location: SW SW Section 32 T21N R60E
County: Richland, MT; Field (or Wildcat) Wildcat

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 25-35 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick rig to drill a single lateral Horizontal Upper Bakken Shale well test, 14,639' MD/10,385' TVD.

Possible H2S gas production: Slight chance H2S.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Single lateral, 14,639' MD/10,385' TVD, Upper Bakken Shale Formation horizontal well.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes intermediate string casing hole will be drilled with oil based invert drilling fluids. Oil based invert drilling fluids for horizontal leg. Surface casing hole to be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud.

High water table: No high water table expected.

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, closest drainage is O'Brien Creek, about 1/4 of a mile to the northeast from this location. Within O'Brien Creek is a stock pond, about 5/8 of a mile to the north from this location.

Water well contamination: No, closest nearby wells are about 1 mile to the northwest and 1 mile to the southwest from this location. Depth of these wells are 86' and 1410' in depth. Surface hole will be drilled with freshwater and surface casing will be cemented to surface from 1708'.

Porous/permeable soils: No, silty sand clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: No, Class I stream drainages.

Mitigation:

☐ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☒ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☒ Other: Lined cuttings pit will be dug for cuttings burial on well site.

Comments: 1708' surface casing to be set to protect freshwater zones and to cover the Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and operational BOP equipment should prevent any problems.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Steam crossings: None anticipated, will utilize existing crossings.

High erosion potential: Yes, location will require moderate cut, up to 23.3' and moderate fill, up to 20.6', required.

Loss of soil productivity: None, location to be restored after drilling well, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, very large well site 450'X400'

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grazing land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☐ Other _____

Comments: Access will be over existing county road, #116 and exiting ranch road. An access road will be built into location off the existing ranch road, about 8,484' new road will be upgraded and/or built into this location. Drilling rig will utilize a closed loop mud system. Cuttings will be buried in the lined cuttings pit. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Completion fluids will be hauled to a Class II disposal. Pit will be allowed to dry before being backfilled. No concerns.

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residence is about 1 mile to the northwest from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight chance H2S.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 25 to 35 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

☒ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems. Distance sufficient to mitigate noise problems.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): Little Missouri National Grasslands about ½ of a mile to the east of this location in North Dakota.

Proximity to recreation sites: Little Missouri National Grasslands about ½ of a mile to the east of this location in North Dakota.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species Threatened or endangered species listed in Richland county by USFW service are Pallid Sturgeon, Piping Plover, Interior Lease Tern and Whooping Crane. Candidate species are the Greater Sage Grouse and the Sprague's Pipit. NH tracker website lists the following as "Species of Concern": six (6) are listed as follows: Meadow Jumping Mouse, Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Whooping Crane, Loggerheaded Shrike and Greater Shorthorn Lizard.

Mitigation:

☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☐ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)

___ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

___ Other: _____

Comments: Surface grasslands are private. There maybe species of concern that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to what he would like done, if a species of concern are discovered at this location.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified

Mitigation

___ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

___ other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)

___ Other: _____

Comments: Surface grasslands are private. There maybe possible historical/cultural/paleontological sites that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to his desires to preserve these sites or not, if they are found during construction of the wellsite.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

___ Substantial effect on tax base

___ Create demand for new governmental services

___ Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

A single lateral Upper Bakken Shale horizontal well, 14,639' MD/10,385' TVD.

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): /s/Steven Sasaki

(title:) Chief Field Inspector

Date: October 6, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

(Name and Agency)

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Groundwater Information Center website.

(subject discussed)

Water wells in Richland County

(date)

October 6, 2011

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA
COUNTIES, Richland County

(subject discussed)

October 6, 2011

(date)

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)

(Name and Agency)

Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T21N R60E

(subject discussed)

October 6, 2011

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____